BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Fourth Prosecution Witness

Following are the excerpts from the cross-examination held on July 29 (Tuesday) of Mohammad Quddus Sikhder by

(Continued from yesterday)

Mahfuzur Rahman, state defence lawyer for absconding accused Major (retd) Bazlul Huda: Q: How old are you? A: About 58 years.

Q: At what age did you join the army in 1960. A: 18 to 20. Q: In which places of Pak-

istan you discharge your duties? A: First in Quetta, Shialkot, Lahore and Azad Kashmir

A; Yes.

time?

A: In 1968.

A: Yes, I was.

A: April 15, 1968.

Q: Who is elder?

birth of your daughter?

during the Liberation War?

A: Daughter.

A: One son and a daughter.

Q: Can you say the date of

A: In the month of Septem-

Q: You were in West Pakistan

came to Bangladesh to join the

A: I did not come as I had a

A: As a retired soldier, I stay

war. Why didn't you come?

Q: What do you do now?

Tom and Jerry

LION.

your marriage?

you have?

ber in 1977.

A: Yes.

A: I was free.

IAN FLEMING'S

JAMES

there?

family.

A: About 1,200. Muzaffarbad Cantonment. Q: were all the 25 soldiers of Q: After how many days did your company repatriated from you come to East Pakistan? Pakistan? A: After every two years.

A: No. Q: Where were you during Q: How many of you were Pakistan-India war in 1965? repatriated from Pakistan? A: In Shialkot sector. A: About 4 to 5 were repatriated from Pakistan and rest Q: Did you participate in that war directly?

IN AFRICA A BOY ISN'T

A MAN UNTIL HE KILLS A

James Bond

AS. YOU WISH ...

were freedom fighters. Q: Did you do your duty by Q: When did you visit your turn in the guard regiment? A: Yes, by turn. village home last before the

grocer's shop.

government.

of One Field.

Q: Do you own the house you

Q: How did you come back to

A: Under a repatriated

Q: Who did give your posting

A: We came to Dhaka by the

Q: How many soldiers were

order of Lt. Col. Syed Ansar, CO

agreement with the Pakistan

A: Yes, it is my own house.

the country from Pakistan?

in Dhaka from Comilla?

there in your regiment?

Liberation War of Bangladesh? Q: For how many hours did you do your duty? Q: Were you married at that A: At a stress for 24 hours, but one used to do one's duty for 8 hours. Guard commanders did Q: Can you say the date of

their duty for 12 hours. Q: How many guard com-

manders were there? Q: How many children do A: We were two guard commanders. Q: Who was the other guard

> commander? A: Naik Habibur Rahman. Q: After your duty on August 14 to whom did you hand over

the duty? A: To Habilder Gani. Then who was Naik

Habib? A: The second guard com-Q: In what situation were you mander of my group. Q: Who was the second guard commander in Gani's group? Q: At that time many people

A: Naik Abdul Jali Q: How many NCOs were there in your group. Can you

name them? A: There were 4 NCOs — Habilder Quddus and Habilder Gani, and Naik Habib and Naik

at my house in Dhaka and run a Jalil. Q: You did not do your duty there for 24 hours on that day.

A: It's not true. Q: What is the responsibility of President's Guard Regiment? A: To ensure the security of the President.

Q: You did not come on that day as guard-in-charge.

A: It is not true. Q: The arms which were to ensure the security of the President, did you take those away with you after your duty?

A: We used to take the arms with us depositing the ammunition.

Q: What were those arms? A: Only SLR.

Q: What was the quantity of ammunition that you handed over to next guard group? A: One thousand rounds of bullet in one box.

Q: Whether the magazines were with the arms of those who were on duty?

A: No, those were unloaded. Q: Your group went for counter firing on August 15 morning after hearing the sound of firing. A: It is not true.

Q: In that incident, some of the soldiers of your group were wounded.

A: None from my group was wounded. Q: Can you show any prove

that you have discharged your duty in that house on that day? A: No, I don't have such proof. Q: You did not see who shot

Sheikh Kamal. A: It is not true. Q: You did not see and can't say who shot the then President

Bangabandhu. A: It is not true. Q: You have said in your statement that you went to Ganobhaban after performing your duty at Bangabandhu's res-

idence. Whom did you see there? A: Subedar Kabir. Q: The fact you have stated, you did not tell it to anyone during your service period.

A: I did not say because nobody asked me about it. Q: You did neither tell this fact to any law enforcing agency

for to any of your relations. A: In the past, I did not tell it to anyone. Only to the IO and to Q: How did they come, by this court.

Q: You did not see the incident. You have said what you were taught by the IO. A: It is not true.

The excerpts from the crossexamination of Mohammad Quddus Sikhder by H M Nurul Huq, state defence lawyer for absconding accused Risaldar Moslemuddin:

Q: Where had you been last A: In my own house at

Baishteki, Mirpur. Q: When did you purchase that land and construct the house?

A: In 1982, I purchased that land. I built the house in 1988. Q: How is the house?

A: A two-storied building. Q: When did you retire? A: I retired on March 16,

Q: What is the distance of Tungipara from your village home at Alfadanga? A: About 30 to 40 miles.

Q: Did you ever meet Bangabandhu? A: I saw him when I went to Bangabandhu's residence for duty. Before that I never came across him.

Q: Have you ever met the present prime minister? A: No, I never met her.

Q: Through whom and on what date you got the summon? A: Through Mirpur police station on 19th and 30th. Q: Can you say who handed over the summon?

A: I don't know his name. Q: Did you come across any Awami League leader before coming to give the statement? A: I did neither meet any

Awami League leader nor any political leader. Q: Do you know Awami

ALL YOU HAVE TO

OUT OF A CAT.

DO IS MAKE A FOOL

DRAWN BY JOHN McLUSKY

By Hanna-Barbera

-

League leader Abdur Razzak? A: I don't know him and

other bodies.

A: No, I didn't.

August in Comilla.

A: I knew him.

Moslemuddin?

Moslemuddin.

ter retirement?

A: No.

A: Yes.

bandhu?

A: Yes.

A: At 5 am.

dence?

intruders?

A: Yes.

A: Those were taken from

Q: Did you go to Tungipara?

Q: When did you get the

A: I received that on 19/20

Q: Did you know Risalder

Q: You did not know Risaldar

Q: You were involved in the

Excerpts from the cross-ex-

amination of Mohammad Qud-

dus Sikhder by Ruhul Islam Khan, state defence lawyer for

absconding accused Major

Q: Can you wear uniform af-

Q: Do you remember the

A: I do not remember the

Q: Were you required to stay

Q: Could you be called any

Q: Who used to hoist the flag

A: The army guards on duty

Q: Were the army personnels

Q: When did you hoist the

Q: Did the guards in the

A: Yes, they used to chal-

flag at Bangabandhu's resi-

guard-shed of Bangabandhu's

residence used to challenge the

those who played the bugle?

as 'standby' for emergency situ-

time for emergency purpose?

at the residence of Banga-

ation after the duty?

used to hoist the flag.

number of the house of Road-

incident and are now giving

false statement against inno-

cent people to save yourself.

A: My statement is true.

there, but where I do not know.

salary of July, 1975 from?

never met him. Q: What was the number of attackers from the lake side? A: Approximately 50 to 60.

A: How did they come I did not see, but they were running. Q: From what distance they were running?

A: From a distance of 100 yards. Q: From how many sides?

A: From eastern and western Q: What type of arms they were carrying? A: Chinese rifles and sten-

guns. Q: What is the effective range of a Chinese rifle.

A: Effective range is 300 yards and maximum range is 100 yards. Q: What was the origin of the

stenguns? A: Indian SMG. Q: What were the effective

range of those arms? A: Effective range was 100 yards and the maximum was 200 yards. Q: How many bullets can be

kept in one SMG magazine? A: I don't remember it ex-Q: How long does it take to

change a magazine? A: Five to 10 seconds. Q: How many SLRs you eight people had?

A: Eight. Q: Why did not you fire when they shouted "hands up"? A: We did not have ammuni-

tion.

A: Yes.

carried out.

with them?

ordered me.

writing it.

of that house?

member other.

Bangabandhu?

zlul Huda.

made?

Q: You are telling a lie. A: I am telling the truth. Q: When did you get your salary?

A: On first or second day of the coming month. Q: How many people were you in the guard room of Road

No 31? A: In total 25. Q: In which side of Bangabandhu's residence was that house?

Q: What did you do then?

A: I went there because they

Q: You did not tell this to the

A: Probably, I did. The 10

Q: Did you know the servants

A: I knew one or two. There

was a cowman named Abdul

Aziz and I remember another

boy named Kishori who used to

look after Russel. I don't re-

shop where the coffins were

Q: What was the name of the

A: I don't remember the

Q: Who took the body of

A: The bodies were taken un-

might have made a mistake in

When did you look for Havilder Gani for ammunition? A: In the north-western cor-A: After firing was stopped. ner of Bangabandhu's resi-Q: Did you find him. dence. Q: Why did you come there

A: No, not at that moment. for duty at 5 am on August 15 af-Q: Can the military personnel move without permission ter finishing your duty at 6 am from higher authorities. on August 14. A: Naik Subedar Abdul Mo-A: We can't. taleb asked me to go there early Q: Did you try to find the rea-

son of seeing Sheikh Kamal in as Bangabandhu would go to the the reception room on that university to attend a promorning. gramme on that day. Q: Did all eight of your sur-A: I saw Sheikh Kamal skidding off after being hit by render to the attackers?

bullets. Q: Were you an NCO in the A: They gave us order, we

QuiWhyadid youngo upstairs and Q: Did you salute the JCOs.

> 9: Did you get scared when majors were entering Bangabandhu's house asking you to have hands up?

A: Yes. illegal entry?

Q: Did you challenge their

Q: Did you salute them? A: I did not.

Q: So many majors came and you did not salute them? A: At that time I didn't feel like saluting them. Q: Did you salute the new

majors who came after the situation calmed down? A: Yes. Q: Where were you when the

majors lined up all? A: I was beside the south

boundary wall of the house. Q: Where was your arms? A: With me.

Q: The majors had given you

Bangabandhu's house on August

the incidents to take place at

Q: Did you know beforehand why the army intruders went to

that house?

A: No.

Q: Were you scared when firing was on.

A: Yes. Q: Do you say your prayers?

Q: Did you say your fazar prayers on that day?

A: Yes, I did. Q: When the azan was made and when was the prayers time? A: Azan was made at about 4.15 am and the prayers at 4.30

Q: Did you say anything of the tragic incident of that house to your commanding officer Captain Bashar?

A: He didn't want to hear. I also did not say him anything. Q: As a government employee

you did not discharge your responsibility of ensuring security of the President. A: It is not correct. Q: You never worked under

the command of Major Noor. A: I didn't.

Q: You never saw him and also did not know him A: I knew him.

Q: Major Noor was discharged much before August 15. A: Yes ... discharged.

Q: A discharged army officer can't come to Bangabandhu's residence wearing his uniform.

A: He came on that day. 9: Havilder Gani was confined by the military in the guard-shed and you also didn't

look for him. A: It is not true. Q: You had ammunition in

your arms. A: I did not have any ammu-

nition. Q: You knew beforehand that Bangabandhu would be killed on that day. And as you knew it

you did not challenge the stranger force. A: It is not correct. Q: The incident occurred at Bangabandhu's residence at 4:30 am, but you have said that

A: It is not true. Q: The flag was not hoisted at President's house at 5 am

it occurred at 5 am.

A: It is not true. Q: You did not tell the IO which corps of army wear which uniform.

A: I told him. Q: The way the CID officials prepared the statement shows that you have given wrong

statement as per their directive. A: It is not true.

Q: Major Noor was in no way

involved in the said incident. A: He was involved. Q: You made your statement

in the court suppressing the truth. A: It is not true.

Excerpts from the cross-examination of Mohammad Quddus Sikhder by Zillur Rahman. state defence lawyer for absconding accused Lt Col (retd)

Khandaker Abdur Rashid: Q: Did you get any award for the Indo-Pak war in 1965?

A: No. Q: Did you take part in the

war Pakistan declared against India on December 3, 1971? A: Yes. Q: In which area did you

fight the war? A: Azad Kashmir Mozaffarabad.

Q: Did you get any award at

Q: You were a very reliable person of the Pakistan govern-

ment. A: No. I wasn't. Q: Where was your family till you came back to the country?

A: They were with me. Q: Did you get your salary regularly? A: I used to get an allowance.

Q: Did you come out of the barrack wearing your full uniform? A: Yes.

9: How long did it take to come to your working place from the barrack.

A: Five to six minutes. Q: Who did hoist the flag on August 14 when you left that house after handing over your charge.

A: I hoisted the flag. Q: Were you on duty at that time?

A: I was till 6 am. Q: You were to follow the command of your officer Captain Bashar. A: yes.

Q: With whom of the majors you went upstairs, did you have the permission to go with them? A: No, there was no permis-

sion, but I went there as I was

ordered by Captain Bazlul Q: There was no duty of Bazlul Huda in that house.

A: Yes, he never had any duty in that house. Q: Your arms remain loaded when you were on duty.

A: No. Q: It is not that the arms kept for President's security have no ammunition. A: The arms are not kept

loaded. Q: Did you receive the ammunition from Havilder Gani after you joined the duty? A: No.

Q: You started doing formal work, including hoisting the national flag, after you take charge of your duty. A: It is not true. Q: Did you meet Havilder

Gani on that day? A: I met him before I hoisted the flag. Q: When did you meet him

later? A: After the killing incident at about 10 am. Q: You did not receive the

ammunition from him at that time even. A: I couldn't. Q: When were you with the

majors, where were those rest 8 people of your group? A: They also worked as per order of Captain Bazlul Huda. Q: They acted as per your or-

der as they were under your command. all A: Not true. Har a caire t. Q: When did you come to join

your duty on August 13? A: At 5.30 am Q: From Comilla you came to

that house for duty on your own initiative. A: It is not true.

Q: The killing took place under your command. A: It is not true.

Q: None of you were brought to line up.

Q: After that you were never suspended nor arrested. A: No.

Q: You are putting blame on others after conducting the killing by yourself. A: It is not true.

Rafiq hands over

cheque to Kaundia

UP chairman

lam yesterday handed over a

cheque of Tk 5,000 to Saiful

Alam Khan, Kaundia Union

Parishad chairman in Savar

thana, for his cooperation in

arms recovery and arresting

Saiful Alam held three dacoits

at his union with the help of

people as they were fleeing after committing dacoity at Mirpur

in Dhaka. He also recovered a

single barrel gun and two ram-

over the cheque on behalf of

Dhaka district administration

in recognition of his courageous

Commissioner and Superin-

tendent of Police of Dhaka dis-

trict were present at the func-

tion held at the office of the

BNP Gopalganj

The Home Minister handed

DIG of Dhaka range, Deputy

dao from them.

Home Minister.

acts.

On February 15 this year,

three dacoits, reports UNB.

Home Minister Rafiqul Is-

- UNB Verbatim texts of further cross

der the command of Major Baexaminations shall be published as and when we receive that time? Q: What happened with the the responsibility to supervise A. No. them.

=Metropolitan= 5th Health and Population Project being formulated

disasters.

ABOUT YOUR UNPLEASANT

CALLERS?

A high-profile health project is being formulated, laying utmost importance on accountability and transparency in the

health sector, reports BSS. The project titled "The Fifth Health and Population Project (HAPP-5)" will be implemented during the period 1998-2003 with technical support from the World Bank. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will implement the project allover the country. Meanwhile, the ministry

has prepared a health and popu-

lation sector strategy (HPSS)

through a consultative process,

with inputs from government officials, NGOs, private sector, clients, UN agencies and donors. The HAPP-5 preparation task force, headed by an additional secretary of the ministry. has been working on formulation of the project with the consensus of the government, donors and other stakeholders, aimed at sustained progress towards improving the health

status and slowing down the rate of population growth in Bangladesh. 'It is very much necessary to improve both quality, availability and access to basic health and family planning services in Bangladesh," Nilufar Ahmad, member-secretary of the community and stakeholder participation of the task force and a World Bank consultant in this field, told BSS yesterday.

She said three basic ideas partnership between the government and the people, participatory health system and dissemination of health messages - were being incorporated in the process of formulation of the project a 10-member donor consortium led by the World Bank will provide support towards implementation of this

project, she added. Nilufar Ahmed said the gov-

ernment, wants to ensure that its commitment in the health sector its fulfilled through establishing people's right to health service. "There are government hos-

pitals at thana level, but it has

been noticed that 25 per cent of

the target groups are not getting

medical service from there," she

said, adding that the government was regularly supplying medical inputs to those hospi-She further said that at least 75 per cent of the people in rural areas had to spend money from their own pockets for getting medical services from private

practitioners. "In my opinion, child and maternal mortality rate in high in the country due to illiteracy and inadequate medical services in the government hospitals," she said, stressing the need for raising awareness as well as accountability in the public sector health service.

The HPSS envisages that the effective implementation of the project would not only contribute to the reduction in morbidity, mortality and fertility, but also to the improvement of quality of life and reduction of poverty in general. "The government is committed to the overall objectives of health for all, the World Sum-

mit for Children and the pro-

gramme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development as well as the platform for action of the 4th World Conference on Women," she said, adding the HPSS is built on these commitments. The HPSS is an important element of the poverty reduction strategy of the government,

designed to improve health and

family welfare for increased

labour productivity and supporting economic growth It will target the underprivileged and underserved groups of

the population which will reduce the vulnerability of poor households to illness-induced income erosions and financial

The ministry expects that improvement in health and

family welfare status will pro-

vide complementary support to

development efforts in other

WILL DEAL WITH

IMPORTANT

THINGS TO

THEM .. YOU AND I HAVE MORE

sectors, especially education of girls, water supply, sanitation, environment as well as empowerment of women to enjoy their legal rights and status. The HPSS also aims at providing a gender perspective to bear on all aspects of health care activities, including access, client orientation, quality of service, informed choice and role of women in decision-making. "Provision of appropriate

cents, is also a part of the new strategy," Nilufar Ahmad said. According to the HPSS document, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and its directorate would be reorganised through a united and efficient administrative structure for a cost effective delivery of essen-

information and services for

young people, including adoles-

tial package of services (EPS). The government will focus on EPS with the highest priority to interventions with public good character and maternal and child health. He EPS consists of behaviour change communication, reproductive health care, child health care, communicable disease control and simple curative care, including treatment of emergencies.

The EPS will be delivered by

a unified public delivery system

which will be client-oriented

and provided on a one-stop ba-

sis with community participa-

tion in planning and manage-

ment. NGOs and the private sec-

tor will provide complementary

support and strengthen the

public service delivery system.

the document said.

Other health services will be expanded and improved through partnerships with or commissioning of services to NGOs and private not-for-profit hospitals and through a larger and better regulated role of the government for the private sector. Improvement of the public sector hospitals will involve greater autonomy of management combined with local accountability and community participation.

The HPSS document said the

resource constraints for meet-

ing the future demand for

health and family planning

services would require im-

proved efficiency and expanded

cost recovery in the public sec-

tor. Proper attention will be given to the equality aspect in cost recovery, particularly in respect of the women and the extremely poor, it said. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted 10 task forces to facilitate the preparation of the HAPP-5 project. One of the task forces is community and stakeholders

drafted a workplan giving priority to three major areas. The areas are participatory rural appraisal sessions, twelve district level workshops and public education involving health service clients, field workers, service providers NGOs women organisations. members of local government bodies, local elite journalist and professional association.

participation' which has

The stakeholder participation task force has also identified 34 stakeholder groups in three main categories — clients or users, especially women, children and the poor at the primary level, providers and those active in the health sector at the secondary level and influential but outside the health sector at the external stakeholders level



Home Minister Rafiqul Islam speaking at a workshop organised by the Hunger Project in

Hunger Project Mannan slates holds workshop attack on party Home Minister Rafiqul Is leaders

lam, Bir Uttam, yesterday stressed the need for mobilising the youth to free the country from hunger and poverty, reports "Our young generation will have to be built with self-devo-

Quader as special guest, director

of the Hunger Project Dr Badiul

Alam Majumder and director

general of the Youth Develop-

ment Directorate. The work-

shop was conducted by Andrue

Davis and Anny Lenlan.

the city yesterday.

tion," he said while speaking at a workshop, organised by "the Hunger Project Bangladesh' In a statement yesterday, he held at the Planning and Development Academy as chief guest. The four-day workshop was addressed by, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul

Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the attacks on party leaders in Barisal and Shariat pur districts by the terrorists of "ruling Awami League", reports

BNP secretary general Abdul

said the "Awami" terorrists on July 25 attacked Lokman Hos sain Hawlader, Moria thana unit BNP vice-president in Shariatpur district, and cut his tendons. In Gournadi thana of Barisal

district, the terorrists of the

"rulling party" looted and occu-

pied the house of local BNP

leader and UP member Karom

sign agreement KHULNA, July 30: Aqua

Shell-take, a consultant farm, has been appointed to implement the Khulna Development Authority's (KDA) master plan of the city on Monday last, reports BSS KDA chairman Colonel Md

KDA, Aqua Shell-take

- PID photo

Abdus Salam and managing directors of the consulting farm Khandaker Mezbha Ahmed and Salma-A-Shafi jointly signed an agreement in this respect. The project is expected to be

implemented during the next two years time at a cost of Taka one crore. The function was attended among others, by the chief of

officer Ohid Azgar.

the consultant farm Md Nurul Islam, executive engineer of KDA Abdul Jabbar, Kazi Khalilur Rahman and authorised

committee dissolved Gopalganj district committee

venor, reports UNB. According to a BNP press release, the convening committee has been asked to reorganise the thana committees and form a full-fledged district committee by holding conference

Hawlader and Giasuddin Khan Jhantu have been made joint convenors of the committee.

The BNP has dissolved its and announced a 133-member convening committee with Saifur Rahman Nantu as con-

within three months. Moniruzzaman Pinu, Kazi Nazrul Islam Advocate, Abdul Hannan Munshi, Shanker Kumar Mitra, Fazlur Rahman Mollah, Nazrul Islam (Anu Munshi). Anwar Hossain